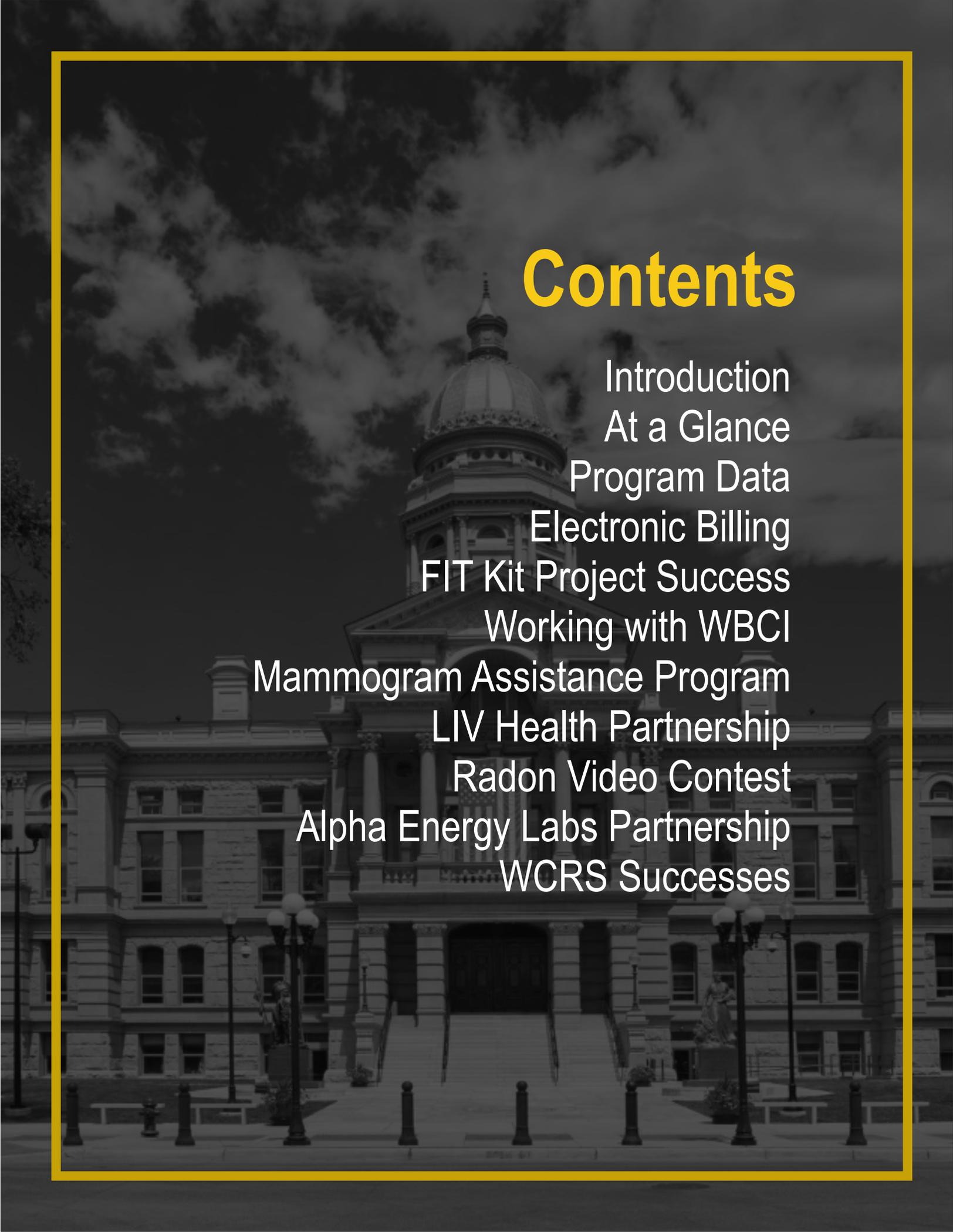




Year in Review 2020-2021



The background of the page is a grayscale photograph of the Wisconsin State Capitol building. The building features a prominent central dome and classical architectural elements like columns and arches. The image is framed by a thick yellow border.

Contents

Introduction
At a Glance
Program Data
Electronic Billing
FIT Kit Project Success
Working with WBCI
Mammogram Assistance Program
LIV Health Partnership
Radon Video Contest
Alpha Energy Labs Partnership
WCRS Successes

Introduction

The Wyoming Cancer Program (WCP) has made tremendous strides in recent years to reduce the burden of cancer in Wyoming. The WCP houses the breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening programs as well as the comprehensive cancer control program and the State Indoor Radon Grant. These programs facilitate statewide activities such as the Wyoming Cancer Coalition (WYCC) and the Wyoming Cancer Resource Services (WCRS) regional coordinators.

Since its beginning in 1997, the Wyoming Cancer Program has screened over 11,500 women for breast and cervical cancer. The colorectal cancer screening component began in 2007 and we have provided over 5,000 Wyoming Residents with a colonoscopy. These programs have detected over 400 breast cancers, 50 cervical cancers, 750 high-grade pre-cancers, and 90 colon cancers.

“We are thankful for the resources that have been created as a result of the pandemic and optimistic for what the future of public health holds.”

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has created some significant hardships not only for healthcare providers and staff, but also for the residents of Wyoming. The pandemic has shined a light on disparities and given public health center stage to spotlight the growing need for health equity. We are thankful for the resources that have been created as a result of the pandemic and optimistic for what the future of public health holds.

We look forward to continuing to work with newly found partners as well as nourishing existing relationships. These creative and enthusiastic partnerships in the face of great adversities we've seen in 2020 and 2021 are truly inspiring. Together we can continue to make a difference, together we are stronger than ever.

*Star Jones, CPM
Unit Manager
Cancer and Chronic Disease Prevention*

At a Glance

The Wyoming Breast & Cervical, and Colorectal Cancer Screening Programs are funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of Wyoming. These programs cover the cost of preventative cancer screenings for eligible Wyoming residents who would not otherwise be able to afford a cancer screening. The screening program also provides patient navigation for ineligible applicants to assist them with finding the resources needed to complete a cancer screening. Additionally, the program works with healthcare providers statewide on quality improvement projects that are geared towards increasing cancer screening rates in the clinic setting.

The Comprehensive Cancer Control Program is funded by the CDC and Tobacco Settlement Funds. This program focuses on implementation of evidence-based strategies to promote the primary prevention of cancer, support cancer early detection and screening, address the needs of cancer survivors, and promote health equity.

The Wyoming Cancer Coalition (WYCC) is a group of stakeholders from various sectors who are committed to decreasing the burden of cancer in Wyoming. The WYCC's work is driven by the Wyoming Cancer Plan which is a strategic plan that identifies goals and strategies to address gaps in Wyoming. A coalition challenges stakeholders to come together to leverage their resources, create a unified voice, and make a collective impact.

The Wyoming Cancer Resource Services (WCRS) are funded by the Wyoming Department of Health and are regional, community based coordinators who provide support services to Wyoming residents. They educate about cancer prevention and risk factors, they promote early detection of cancer and the importance of cancer screenings, and they provide patient navigation for Wyoming residents needing local, regional, state, or national cancer information and resources including transportation and financial assistance.

The Wyoming Radon Program (WRP) is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and provides radon kits to Wyoming residents at no cost. This program also hosts an annual statewide contest to promote radon education among students.

Program Data

**Clients
Enrolled**

Breast and Cervical
Cancer Screening Program



Colorectal Cancer
Screening Program



- Clients directly enrolled by WCP
- Clients referred by the WCRS

Breast and Cervical
Cancer Screening Program



Colorectal Cancer
Screening Program



**Clients
Screened**

- Screened clients directly enrolled by WCP
- Screened clients referred by the WCRS

*Program data is based on Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Number of Cancers Detected by Type

Invasive Breast Cancer

22

Cervical Cancer

3

Colorectal Adenomas

70

Ductal Carcinoma in situ State 0

2

Electronic Billing

The WCP is dedicated to quality improvement projects. One such project was related to the electronic billing process that the program uses. The WCP transitioned to electronic billing utilizing the Wyoming Medicaid claims system in July of 2018. This transition allowed for providers to submit claims for reimbursement and supporting documentation electronically versus traditional mail or faxing to the WCP. While this transition alleviated many staff hours, it also presented challenges.

The program noticed that there were many claims being submitted through the electronic portal, and many claims were not processed

for payment because they were missing the documentation that is required by the CDC for reporting. The program began exploring



potential reasons and discovered that providers had not been sufficiently trained on this process. A quality improvement team was formed and they began to

work on potential improvements. When this project began in March 2021, there were 286 providers that were having difficulty submitting claims, and there were 1135 claims that were pending payment. The team worked with the claims system to correct this issue and provide training to healthcare providers.

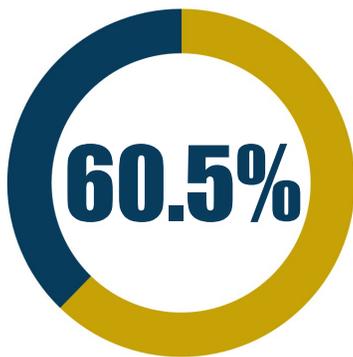
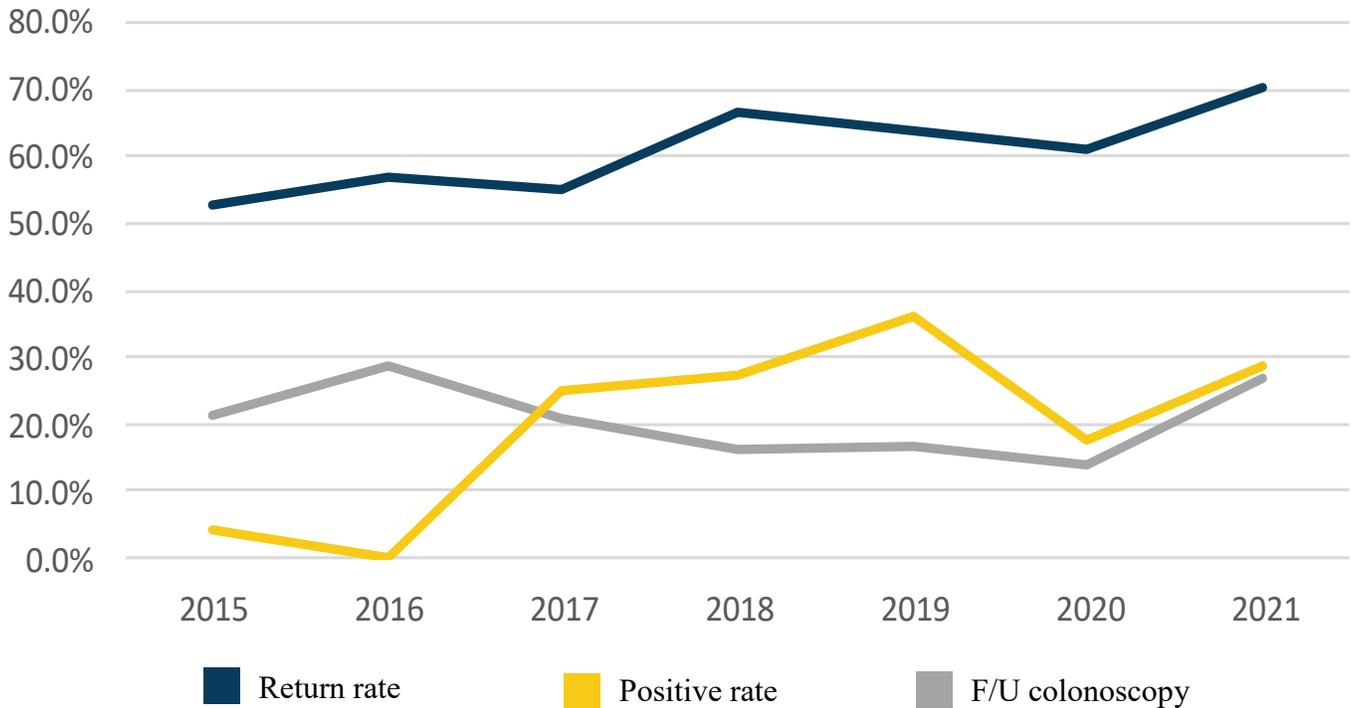
By October, the team had reduced the number of providers having difficulty from 286 down to 46. The number of pending claims went from 1135 down to 111. The WCP has since

outlined a process to continually monitor the denied claims report to ensure timely reimbursement and submission of supporting documentation.

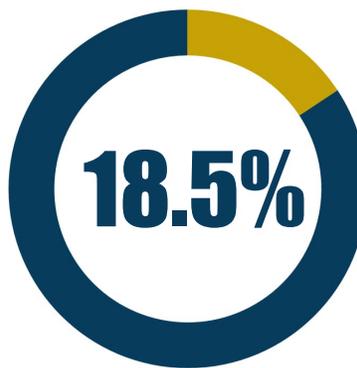
FIT Kit Project Success

In 2015, the WCP received funding from the American Cancer Society to purchase fecal immunochemical tests (FIT) kits with the goal of offering at-home stool testing options for Wyoming residents who were not eligible for Wyoming's Colorectal Cancer Screening Program and who were not able to afford a colonoscopy. At the completion of this project the data showed that being able to offer the alternative testing option is important to reduce barriers to screening. In 2021, the WCP updated the State Rules to include evidence-based stool testing options as a covered benefit in the Colorectal Cancer Screening Program.

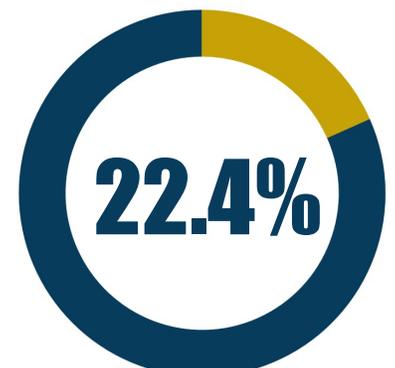
This graph represents the data of the FIT Kit Project from start to finish.



The WCP gave out 2,336 FIT Kits and 1,414 were returned for a 60.5% return rate.



Of the 1,414 returned kits, 263 tested positive for markers of colorectal cancer.



59 of the clients who's FIT Kit was positive received a colonoscopy through the WCP.

*Data is based on entire project 2015-2021

Working with WBCI

In 2020, the WCP was honored to partner with Wyoming Breast Cancer Initiative (WBCI) to support \$100,000 in community grants. These grants provided support that focused on reducing structural barriers, providing patient navigation, and providing support and resources to cancer survivors.

Reducing Structural Barriers projects focused on offering services during alternative hours such as evenings and weekends, at alternative non-clinical settings, and in the individual's primary language. Grantees reported:

97

Individuals received services that reduced barriers.

40

Individuals attended events during extended hours.

184

Early detection screenings completed.

97

Individuals received services in their primary language.

Patient Navigation projects focused on providing assistance to individuals on a one-on-one basis to reduce barriers to care and encourage the completion of cancer screenings. Grantees reported:

158

Individuals received patient navigation services.

24

Individuals received scheduling assistance.

184

Clinical breast exams and/or mammograms performed.

63

Individuals received diagnostic testing services.

417

Lodging and/or gas vouchers provided.

Survivorship projects on support resources and services provided to cancer survivors, such as support groups, one-on-one counseling, and breast boutique services. Grantees reported:

241

Individuals received survivorship services.

19

Group sessions held.

175

One-on-one counseling sessions completed.

31

Breast boutique services provided.

Mammogram Assistance Program

Patient navigation is one strategy the CDC recommends and the WCP utilizes to encourage more women to complete their recommended cancer screenings. Patient navigation is one on one assistance that helps people overcome barriers to completing their screenings and is an effective strategy to increase cancer screening rates.

In an effort to facilitate patient navigation and increase the availability of mammograms, the WCP partnered with the WBCI to create a Mammogram Assistance Program. This partnership allows for the WCP to utilize WBCI funding for applicants seeking breast health services who are not eligible for state-funded services. WBCI voucher funds are available for those in financial need, without any restrictions based on income, gender, insurance status or age.

54

Patients navigated

47

Screening mammograms

10

Diagnostic mammograms

4

Breast ultrasounds

4

Breast biopsies

5

Breast cancers detected

LIV Health Partnership

LIV Health, in partnership with WBCI and the WCP funded a program called United in the Fight, in 2019. This program provides helpful resources and support for our friends battling any type of cancer, anywhere in the state of Wyoming.

LIV Health provides patient navigation and case management to any Wyoming resident with any type of cancer. All services are provided at no cost to the client. Some of the things this program can help with are:

- Coordination of healthcare appointments.
- Education on community resources and supports.
- Navigating health insurance eligibility and understanding your benefits.
- Connecting to mental health or community support.
- Assisting with housing security.
- Accessing food and other basic needs
- And so much more!



This program has already served so many Wyoming residents and the need continues to grow. We look forward to continuing to support this important work for years to come!

“ My life has been impacted in so many positive ways since I have begun my therapy with LIV Health. Through their gentle and encouraging ways, they have taught me how to learn to love myself again, and how to be gentle with myself. I have learned how to identify my emotions, and the thoughts that are attached to them. With their guidance, I am learning how to change my thoughts, when the thoughts I have are not serving me. ”

Radon Video Contest Launched

In 2020, the Wyoming Radon Program (WRP) launched the first Radon Video Contest for high school students, to be held along side the Radon Poster Contest.

To help jumpstart submissions, the program asked an employee's high school-age child to submit a sample video, knowing this video would not be eligible to win a prize but,

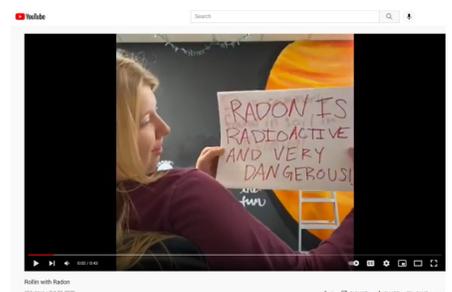
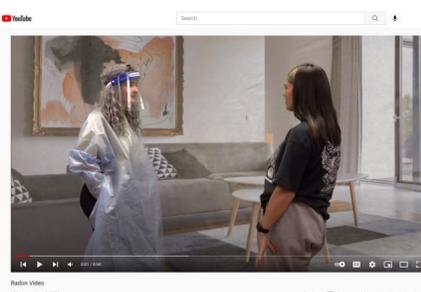
simply wanting to have an example for other students.

This video was uploaded to the submission page, and the program staff hoped for the best; keeping the expectations low since it was the first year.

The video contest received seven submissions in its inaugural year,

which was even more than some other states with an established video contest received, per the Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 Radon Coordinators group.

The WRP plans to continue hosting the Radon Video Contest along with the Poster Contest.



Alpha Energy Labs Partnership

The Wyoming Radon Program's (WRP) largest outreach effort is providing free radon test kits to Wyoming residents. Since partnering with Alpha Energy Laboratories (AEL) in October 2020, the WRP has seen significant improvements in the program.



A Wyoming-specific webpage receives a majority of the requests with kits being sent directly from the lab. This eliminated the need for on-hand test kits, which could expire before use.

AEL has a reminder email system in place, which sends reminder emails to residents who have not returned their test kits at 30, 60 and 90 day intervals. This has helped increase the return rate of test kits.



The year prior to the partnership, the WRP had a return rate of about 40%. One year of the partnership has garnered a 93% return rate.

This partnership also reduced the amount of time the WRP manager spent mailing radon test kits, entering requests into a spreadsheet, and inputting data, from 4-5 hours per week to 1-2 hours per week.



AEL's data portal allows the WRP to pull a wide range of data at any time, for any date range and has options to break the data down by county, city, results, or real estate transaction.

WCRS Successes

Region I

Serving Albany, Goshen, Laramie, and Platte counties

Employee incentive for cancer screenings in Laramie County

The WCRS regional coordinator partnered with a large employer to implement an incentive program to entice its employees to develop and maintain healthy lifestyle habits. Employees can receive a reduced rate on their insurance premiums by completing several healthy habits throughout the year and earning points; 10,000 points must be earned to qualify for the insurance rate reduction.

In order to encourage employees to get their recommended cancer screenings, the partner began rewarding employees 4,500 points to get their colonoscopies, mammograms, or Pap tests. This is a huge step in employees reaching their 10,000 point goal and increases the chance of early detection of cancers.

Region II

Serving Carbon, Converse, Natrona, and Niobrara counties

Breast cancer screening promotion in Natrona County

The WCRS regional coordinator partnered with numerous organizations to create a unique opportunity to promote breast cancer screenings in Natrona County. Using marketing campaigns to promote the importance of breast cancer screenings, these partners were able to share important information about breast cancer risks and the importance of cancer screenings. During the promotion, women would be encouraged to complete a free BRCA1 assessment and women with certain risk factors would be referred for BRCA 1 testing. Additionally, a local imaging facility was offering free mammograms for eligible women. Any woman receiving their mammogram during this promotion was entered into a drawing. At the end of this promotion, the imaging facility reported a 25% increase in the number of mammograms performed compared to previous years.



Region III

Serving Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties

Breast cancer screening events in Johnson and Weston Counties

The WCRS regional coordinator worked with partners to implement breast cancer screening events. These events were held in the evenings and on weekends as a way to reduce barriers for women who are not able to attend a provider visit during regular office hours. These events are held during the month of October and provide awareness and education on the importance of breast cancer screenings. During the events, a medical provider offers free clinical breast exams and eligible women are referred for a mammogram.

Mammogram schedulers are available during the event as well as patient navigators who can help with applications for financial assistance for any women who can not afford a mammogram. These events resulted in 39 total clinical breast exams and 32 women were referred for mammograms.



Region IV

Serving Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie counties

FIT Kit project in Fremont County

The WCRS regional coordinator partnered with a local organization, medical clinic, and testing laboratory to provide 200 fecal immunochemical testing kits (FIT Kits) to qualified patients in the area. FIT Kits are an at-home stool based testing option that allows average risk patients to test for colorectal cancer in the privacy of their own homes.

The medical clinic mailed an informational letter to patients who met the criteria for receiving a FIT Kit and any client who returned the initial screening questionnaire was contacted to determine eligible and were mailed a FIT Kit. Any patient who returned their FIT Kit to the laboratory for testing was entered into a drawing for a prize.

To date, 75 FIT Kits have been requested and 41 of those tests have been completed. Roughly 15% of the returned tests tested positive for colorectal cancer indicators and the patients are referred to their primary care physician for follow up.



Region V

Serving Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton, and Uinta counties



Employee screening events in Sweetwater County

The WCRS regional coordinator collaborated with the local hospitals to host employee screening days. During the screening events, employees are able to receive a breast cancer screening without needing to utilize their own paid time off. Employees who completed their breast cancer screenings during these events are entered into a drawing to win a prize. These events are scheduled to continue on a quarterly basis.

To date, 31 employees have completed their mammograms.

Employer health fairs in Sweetwater County

The WCRS regional coordinator partners with local hospitals and employers to host employee health fairs that not only promote the importance of cancer screenings but also encourage other health screenings.

To date, four employee health fairs have been held and resulted in 32 mammograms, 35 colonoscopies, 19 FIT Kits, 9 Pap tests, and 2 HPV vaccines.



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